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CZECHS BAR TALK WITH U.S. CITIZEN

Access Refused on Grounds
of National Security

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.—Czechoslovakia refused today to allow United States consular officials in Prague to see Vladimir Kazan-Komarek, a Czech-born American travel agent who was seized Oct. 31 and charged with murder and high treason. The United States threatened reprisals.

A State Department spokesman, Joseph Reap, said the Czech refusal had been conveyed in a conversation between a Foreign Ministry official and a member of the United States Embassy. The Czech official said Mr. Kazan-Komarek could not be seen "pending completion of further investigation of his case." He did not indicate how long that might take.

According to Mr. Reap, the Embassy official protested that the refusal was contrary to the provisions of the Vienna consular convention of 1963, granting consular access. The Czech was said to have replied that Czech law does not permit access in certain national-security cases.

Mr. Reap said the Vienna convention contained a provision specifically overriding laws that would forbid access. In April, 1965, Czechoslovakia in-

formed the United States that in cases involving United States citizens she would adhere to the convention. The United States is now holding Czechoslovakia to that promise.

Indignation in the U. S.

The Kazan-Komarek case has aroused indignation in the Johnson Administration. At a news conference yesterday Secretary of State Dean Rusk indicated that it could affect relations between the two countries.

Aside from the question of access, the manner in which Mr. Kazan-Komarek was seized caused particular anger. The travel agent, who runs the Harvard Travel Service in Cambridge, Mass., was flying to Paris aboard a Soviet Aeroflot plane from Moscow.

The flight's normal nonstop route swings north across Latvia. The landing in Prague, described by the Soviet Union as an emergency stop required by mechanical difficulties, has aroused suspicion of collusion between Soviet and Czech security agents.

Mr. Kazan-Komarek, who left Czechoslovakia in 1948, is accused by the Czechs of having operated an espionage ring that caused the death of a Czech policeman. The Czech press agency C.T.K. said Mr. Kazan-Komarek had confessed to the charges and had implicated 28 others.

He was said by the Czech agency to have been trained by a foreign intelligence agency to organize antistate activities in Czechoslovakia. The foreign country was not identified, but the Czechs have indicated to the United States that French intelligence was involved.

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